

Stephen N. Thom

Stephen Thom is currently the Deputy Director for the Community Relations Service of the U.S. Department of Justice where he had served as a Federal Mediator for over 17 years. He began his federal career after being selected one of ten Health Education and Welfare Fellows in 1975, where he worked with the Department of Education as a Program Officer for the Right to Read Program, an Institutional Liaison for the Officer of Educational Research and Improvement, and Director of Asian and Pacific American Concerns for the Under Secretary of Intergovernmental Affairs.

Mr. Thom prior to federal service was a Professor and Coordinator of the Asian American Studies Program at California State University, Fresno, Middle and Elementary School Teacher at Los Nietos Unified School District, and social worker at the All Peoples Christian Center in Los Angeles, California.

Mr. Thom, as Director of the Asian Pacific American Concerns Staff served as the Chief Advisor to the Secretary of Education and represented the Department of Education on the Interagency Task Force responsible for mediating the Termination of the U.S. Trusteeship of U.S. Territories of the Pacific Islands. After this and other mediation experiences, in 1987, he joined the Community Relations Service as a Federal Mediator.

As a Federal Mediator, Mr. Thom has conducted mediations throughout Region IX, which serves the states of Arizona, California, Hawaii, and Nevada. He has mediated a variety of interracial, multi-party disputes on such matters as: Native American sacred artifacts and remains, corporate development, police excessive use of force, and school violence. As a mediator, he has also served in a leadership role in defusing racial tensions and violence in response to the 1992 Los Angeles Civil Unrest, the Loma Prieta and Northridge earthquakes, the Santana High School Shooting in Santee, and the Cleveland Massacre in Stockton, California.

Mr. Thom has developed or improved several intervention and training programs such as: the Law Enforcement Mediation and Conflict Resolution Skills Training program, the Student Problem Identifying and Resolving Issues Together program, the Student Assessment and Response Strategy, Ethnic Advisory Committees to Police Department, and Racial Dialogues. He has published articles in the Safe School Magazine, the Mediation Quarterly, and written several manuals and booklets for the U.S. Department of Education and Justice.

Mr. Thom is a married man of 32 years with the former Rebecca Lopez and has a daughter Danielle and twin boys Scott and Ryan. He continues to serve on the Board of his childhood community center: All Peoples Christian Center for some 17 years.